

#### REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 21 and 22 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as unpatentable over Bischof (U.S. Patent No. 5,529,428). (Bischof is a reference which was originally cited by Applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement.) Applicant wishes to also acknowledge that Examiner conducted a novelty search and cited numerous additional references in the Office Action of November 18, 1997.

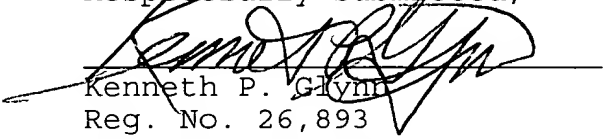
The reference relied upon in the rejection, Bischof, is directed to a metallic structural element for connecting workpieces consisting of wood, woodworking material or plastic which includes a lamellar part and a bolt-like part. The lamellar part provides a non-positive connection with a first workpiece provided with a groove and a transverse hole. The bolt-like part, through screwing or pinning, attaches the non-positive connection with the second workpiece via a longitudinal hole. In other words, the Bischof connector is a half biscuit with a planar extended screw and a traverse locking hole. It is completely different from the present invention and teaches totally away from the present invention. However, the Examiner relies upon Figure 9 of Bischof to reject all of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Figure 9 merely illustrates a cutting template and is not a joinder biscuit. It could function as such and is physically inoperative and structurally different from the present

invention device as claimed. More specifically, and referring to Figure 9 of Bischof, it is true that one end plate is arc-shaped on both sides and thus biscuit-shaped. However, stop part 25 is a solid section running the entire length of the end plate and a screw could not pass through cut-out 28 to fasten the device to anything. Stop 25 (the "vertical support member") must be solid under hole 28 to present the center mark 29. Thus, Figure 9 of Bischof shows a device which is structurally different from the present invention, serves a different purpose and achieves a different result. Even a 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection would be inappropriate because it would not be obvious to modify a cutting and drilling template into a joiner device, especially since Bischof already teaches a joiner device which is totally different from the present invention. Nonetheless, to better clarify the unique differences between Bischof (including its Figure 9 template) and the present invention, all of the claims have been canceled and new claims 23 through 27 have been presented above.

It is urged that, in view of the above amendments and comments, claims 23 through 27 be deemed allowable. An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 5, 1997

  
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